

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 IO-13 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05 H-01
INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02
SS-15 USIA-06 OMB-01 TRSE-00 /073 W
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R 271700Z JUL 77
FM AMEMBASSY MOSCOW
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 316
INFO AMEMBASSY BELGRADE
AMEMBASSY BERLIN
USMISSION BERLIN
AMEMBASSY BONN
AMEMBASSY BUCHAREST
AMEMBASSY BUDAPEST
AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMEMBASSY PARIS
AMEMBASSY PRAGUE
AMEMBASSY SOF
AMEMBASSY WARSAW
AMCONSUL MUNICH
USMISSION NATO
AMEMBASSY MADRID
AMEMBASSY LISBON

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E. O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: PINT, SOPN, UR, PO
SUBJECT: SOVIETS COMMENT ON PORTUGAL

REF: LISBON 5696

1. TWO RECENT PRESS ITEMS HAVE UNDERSCORED SOVIET DISCONTENT
WITH DRIFT OF EVENTS IN PORTUGAL AND PARTICULARLY WITH
QUESTION OF AGRARIAN REFORM BILL (REFTEL). INTERVIEW
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GIVEN BY CUNHAL ON SOVIET TELEVISION ON JULY 20 AND
SUMMARIZED IN PRAVDA THE NEXT DAY WAS DRAWN IN DARK TONES,
WARNING OF THE DANGER OF A FASCIST RESTORATION AND PRO-
TESTING "THE POLICY OF CAPITALIST RESTORATION" CURRENTLY OF

BEING PERSUED IN PORTUGAL. CUNHAL FURTHER COMMENTED THAT
"HARD BATTLES AWAIT US." PRAVDA DID NOT SPECIFICALLY

REFER TO THE AGRARIAN REFORM BILL ITSELF.

2. TITEL OF PRAVDA REPORT (JULY 23), FOLLOWING PASSAGE OF AGRARIAN BILL, "SERIOUS BLOW TO AGRARIAN REFORM", CARRIES FLAVOR OF PIECE ON THE SERIOUS AGGRAVATION OF THE INTERNAL SITUATION IN PORTUGAL. PRAVDA CLAIMS THAT A BACKSTAGE DEAL WAS STRUCK BETWEEN THE GOVERNMENT AND THE SOCIAL DEMOCRATS TO REESTABLISH "KULAK - LANDOWNER ESTATES" AND THAT THE SOCIALISTS HAVE FORMED AN ALLIANCE WITH THE BOURGEOIS PARTIES OF PORTUGAL.

3. COMMENT: PRAVDA'S HANDLING OF THE CUNHAL STATEMENT AMOUNTS TO A SOVIET ENDORSEMENT OF THE PCP ESTIMATE OF THE SITUATION ON THE EVE OF THE AGRARIAN REFORM BILL VOTE IN THE PLIAMENT. ITS SOMBER TONE ALSO PREPARED THE WAY FOR THE SUBSEQUENT REPORT OF THE BILL'S PASSAGE AND UNDERLINED THE SERIOUSNESS OF THE ISSUE FOR THE PCP. THE JULY 23 REPORT OF PASSAGE MIGHT WELL HAVE BEEN ENTITLED "SERIOUS BLOW TO THE PCP".

TOON

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
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Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 27-Jul-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
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Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
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